

## **Saints Mary and Joseph Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 14, 2019

### **Present:**

Fr. Vincent Onunkwo, Deacon Jay Cormier, Sue Levesque, Therese Vallario, Lorraine Thompson, Kristen Klecan, Ken Tarara, Bettie Reddy, Carol Miller, Jay Cappello, Steve Barretto, Shawn McDonough, and Kim Dexter

**Call to order:** 7:00pm

Opening Prayer: Deacon Jay

### **Updates/Reports**

**Staff Update:** Sue Levesque

- The welcome packet and ministry guide have been completed. The bulletin company is printing them. There will be a folder with all of the parish information for new parishioners. There will also be some ministry guides available for current parishioners.
- Harvest Fest was a big success and the progress is already in progress for next year. The total of the money raised will be in the bulletin once the final count is complete.
- There was a request from parishioners to host a classic car show. There is an announcement about this in the bulletin if anyone would like to help plan this event. For more information, or comments, you can contact Paul Blanchette at (603) 898-3926 or pk.blanchette@gmail.com.
- KIDSCHURCH is up and running again. There are three teams of two that are each doing a month at a time. The curriculum director is also a preschool teacher and brings great experience.
- Eucharistic ministers are being publicly commissioned the weekend of November 16th and 17th at all masses. This will be for all current and new eucharistic ministers. There are 11 new parishioners joining this ministry.
- Confirmation is May 17th with Bishop Christian, 2:00 for the third graders and 5:00 for older kids. There will be about 100 kids confirmed in total.

**Finance Council:** Steve

- During the weekend of November 23rd and 24th, there will be an insert in the bulletin on state of parish's finances from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019
- At all masses during this weekend, the chairperson Al Cormier will speak about the report.
- During the weekend of November 30th/December 1st, there will be a video playing on loop before and after masses to promote the parish app and electronic giving
- The previous year, June to June, there was a deficit of \$165,000. We were blessed to receive Parish-to-Parish grants and Safety grants from the diocese, which offset some of the deficit.
- Donations are down about 10% from last year. But collections have been stable lately.
- Electronic giving is up to 10% of total givings, which is an increase from 2% when it first started. The goal is to get up to 50% of the parish using the electronic giving.

**Survey Committee:** Kim

- The updated survey was emailed to all council members for comments, concerns, critiques
- It was asked to consider changing the options from 3 choices: agree, disagree, or no opinion; to 5 choices: strongly agree, agree, no opinion, disagree, or strongly disagree. It was voted by the council and decided to remain as 3 choices.
- The council has now approved of the survey and Father Vincent will provide any final feedback to Kim via email.
- The committee will prepare a plan for administering the survey. It is still the hope that the survey will be administered after the new year.

**Social Committee:** Therese

- Tomorrow, 11/15 is the next game night.
- Last month, there was a good turnout and some new people joined us. The night was spent playing 45's. It was a lot of fun!
- Bettie asked if there could be an announcement two weeks prior to these events. Father Vincent would like an announcement to be done one week before.
- It was also suggested to change up the posters at each church occasionally, so that people are aware that game night is still occurring.
- Steve offered to help promote the game night through the app and post about it on the website. Therese will remind Steve to do this each month.
- Father Vincent is hopeful that the game night will become more popular, just as the monthly potluck dinner has increased greatly.

**New Business****Commissioning:** Kristen

- December 7th or December 8th? These dates did not work for everyone.
- Father Vincent reiterated that everyone in the council needs to be present. He wants the council to pick a date of a weekend mass. It does not matter if it is during this month.
- The council is considering mass times in January/February 2020.

**Open:** PC members

- Caroling is the 14th of December after the 4:00pm mass at MQP. Ken is looking for homebound parishioners to have the group to go caroling to, in addition to area nursing homes. Names and addresses can be sent to the office. Father Vincent will provide the list of over 28 homebound parishioners to Ken. Any other names can be sent to Ken by December 8th at [smjpcaroling@gmail.com](mailto:smjpcaroling@gmail.com). Anyone interested in joining the singing should arrive at MQP by 5:00 on December 14th.

**General Remarks: Fr. Vincent**

- The new sign for St. Joseph has been installed. It has mass times for both churches to help new people to know when masses are celebrated.
- The oil tank at St. Julie Hall needs to be removed and replaced with a new tank. There was water in the oil tank. A temporary fix has been done. There is a potential deal in progress with a local oil company that would benefit the parish through a percentage of sales from parishioners. Once the official documents have been completed, it will be shared with the parishioners.
- At St. Joseph, the carpet on the stairs and the chair lift have been installed. Jay Cappello donated money towards the replacement of the carpet.
- All of the music for the Christmas masses has been set and the musicians have been booked. There will also be a Christmas pageant and 17 kids have already signed up with Sue Levesque to participate. It will be at 3:30 on Christmas eve before the 4:00 mass.
- In regards to Baptism, Father Vincent has tried having baptism directly after mass and also during mass. There have been no complaints either way.
- Father Vincent has seen an increase in youths attending mass. Some have been bringing their friends and their parents. There have been some friends who are now interested in being baptized to join our parish. It is encouraged to allow the youth to participate in mass and become active parishioners.
- Father Vincent is excited about the public commissioning of eucharistic ministers during this coming weekend. All current and new ministers will be commissioned. However, in the future, only new eucharistic ministers will need to participate in the commissioning. More details are provided above.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Vincent

Adjourn: 8:30 PM

Next meeting: December 12, 2019